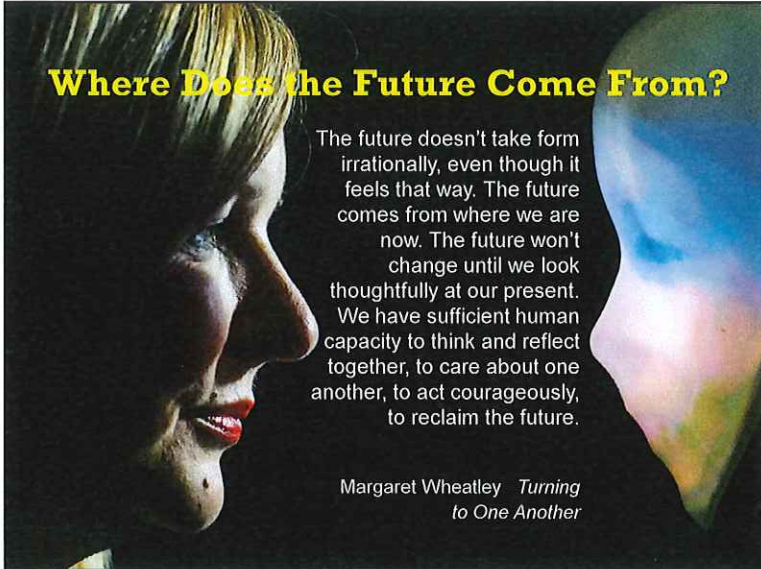


**Using an Equity Framework for Developing a QRIS System**

Workshop Session by San Francisco County  
Ingrid Mezquita, Gabriella Lopez, Lisa Lee  
First 5 Summit Conference, November 2016

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8sqmPf4cd7ai04o/SUMMIT%20PRESENTATION%20USING%20EQUITY%20LENS.pdf?dl=0>



## Where Does the Future Come From?

The future doesn't take form irrationally, even though it feels that way. The future comes from where we are now. The future won't change until we look thoughtfully at our present. We have sufficient human capacity to think and reflect together, to care about one another, to act courageously, to reclaim the future.

Margaret Wheatley *Turning to One Another*

## Who We Are

San Francisco County Consortia is committed to developing our Quality Rating and Improvement System that results in

- A system that supports the excellence and well-being of our early childhood community.
- Increased access to excellence in education and early care for all children and their families, particularly those furthest from opportunity.



## THE ART OF CONVERSATION *Behaviors*

*help take conversation to a deeper realm:*

- we acknowledge one another as equals
- we try to stay curious about each other
- we recognize that we need each other's help to become better listeners
- we slow down so we have time to think and reflect
- we remember that conversation is the natural way humans think together
- we expect it to be messy at times



Introduce your "self"

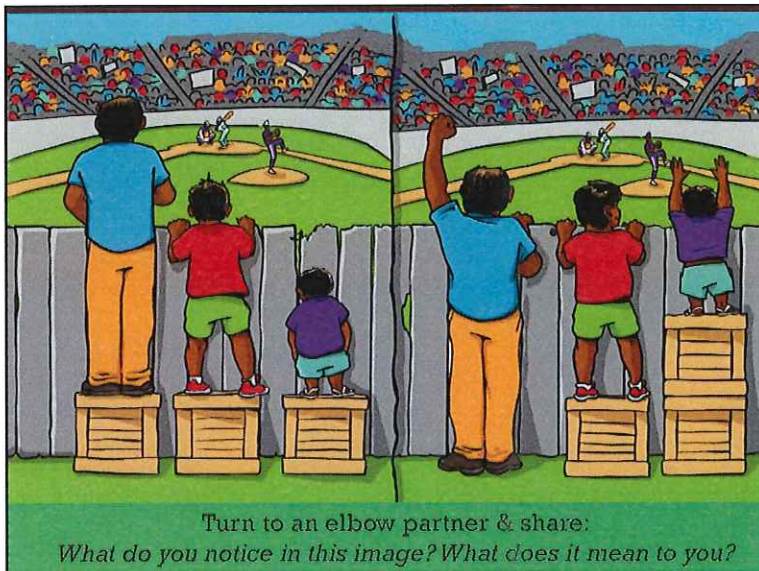
What's your story?

Why are you doing (investing time, energy and resources to) QRIS?

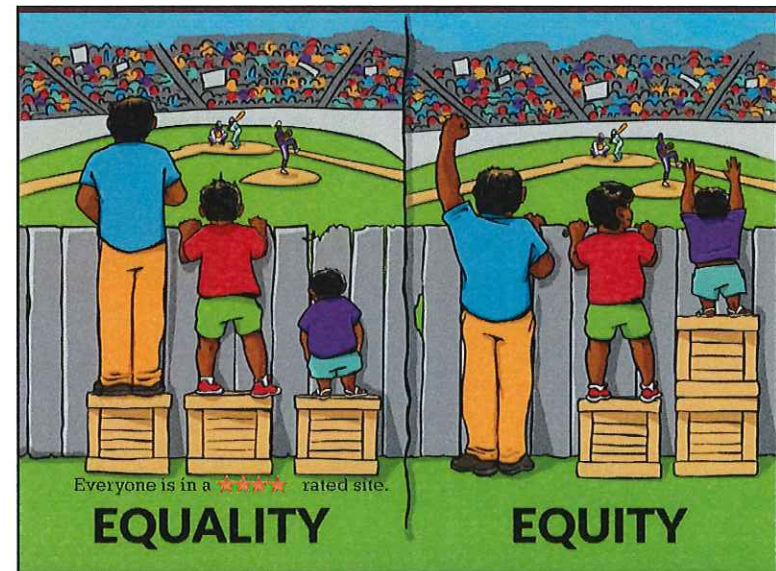
What does EQUITY mean to you?



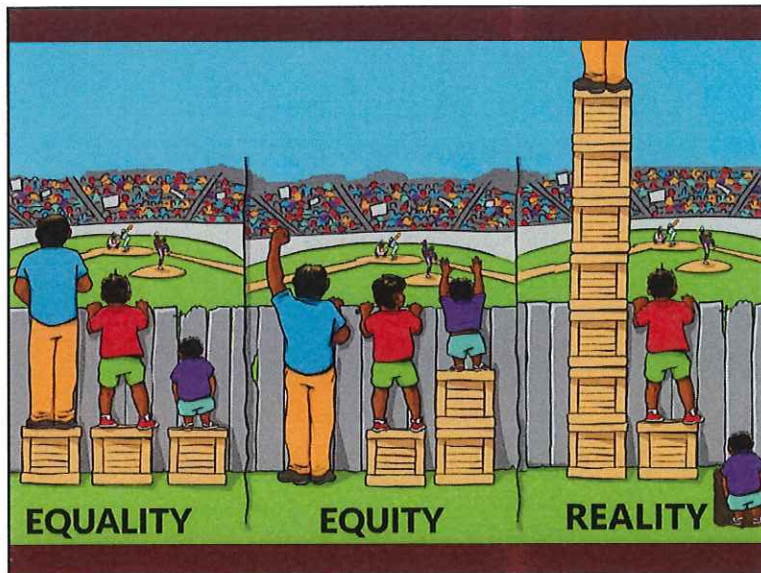
Image credit: flickr.com/61056899@100



Turn to an elbow partner & share:  
What do you notice in this image? What does it mean to you?







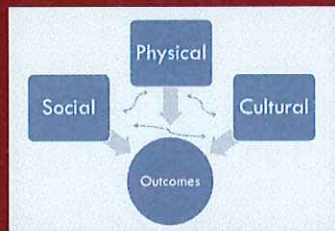
## SITUATEDNESS

We must consider how different populations **stand differently** with respect to **opportunities** for work, education, parenting, retirement...



## Situatedness

We are all situated, but not evenly, within “opportunity structures”



These structures interact in ways that produce racialized outcomes

## Improving outcomes for All Children

### Equality

is giving everyone a shoe

### Equity

is giving everyone a shoe that fits

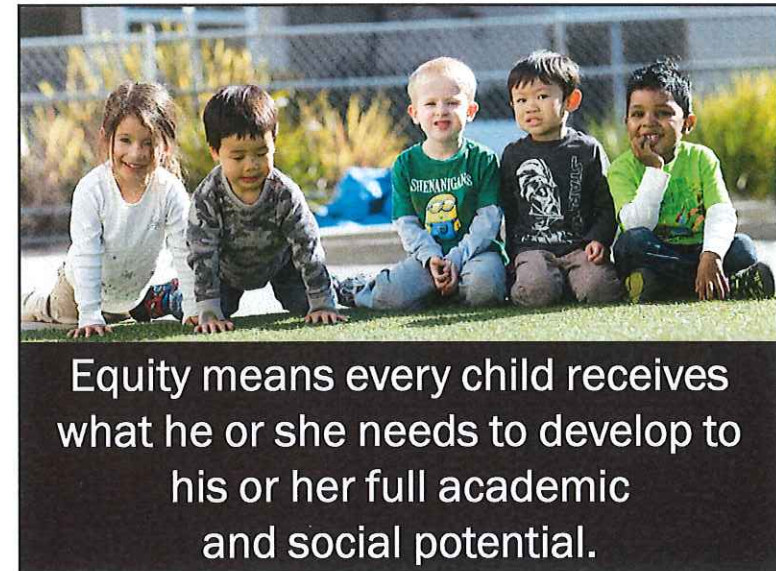
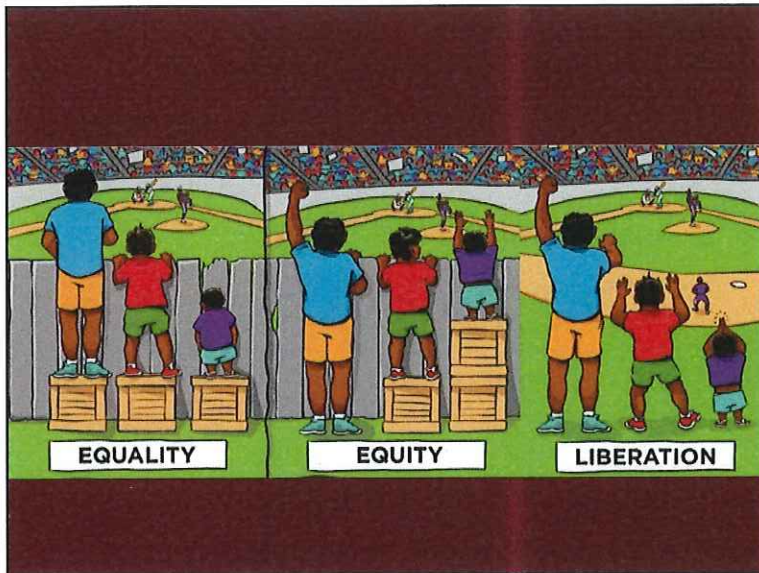
In education, there is a golden triangle of quantity, quality and equity. You just can't ignore one while strengthening the others.

www.everyday-democracy.org

QUOTEID.COM

Sitaram Yechury



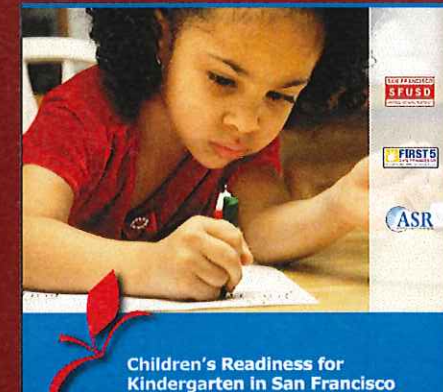


Equity means every child receives what he or she needs to develop to his or her full academic and social potential.

Working toward  
EQUITY means:

90% of SF Head Start and CSSP programs are at Tier 4 or 5.

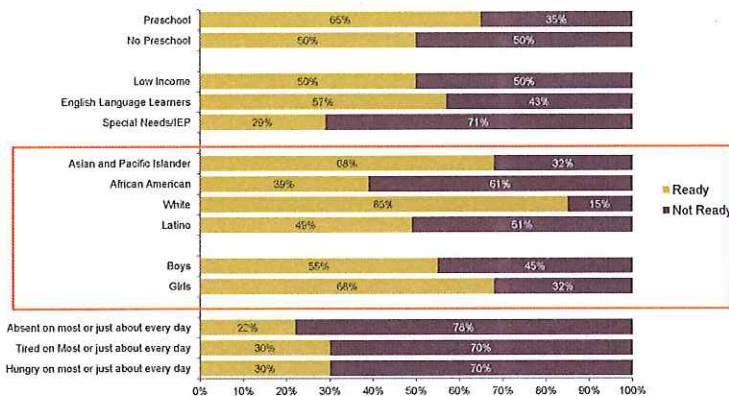
Yet 38% of children entering kindergarten in San Francisco have readiness results that are predictors that they will not meet 3<sup>rd</sup> grade achievement tests in language and math.



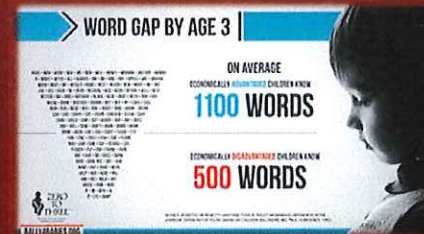
Opportunity gaps clearly exist for African American and Latino children.



### Characteristics within readiness levels



### Achievement Gap



*Words  
Matter*

### Opportunity Gap

Opportunity is defined as  
a fair chance to achieve  
one's full potential.



Removing the predictability of  
success and failure that currently  
correlates with any social or  
cultural factor

### The Problem We Exist to Solve

To achieve  
educational equity  
for vulnerable  
children, there is a  
need to close the

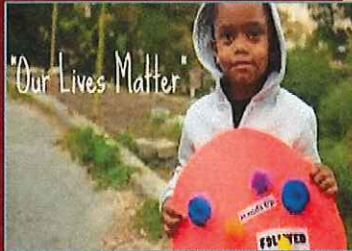
### Opportunity Gap

- not just its  
manifestation, the  
Achievement Gap.





## Black Lives Matter and the Intersection of Early Education



"For many Black males—myself included—classrooms bury potential, and good-intentioned teachers evict from the pliable imagination of young people a limitless real estate of fluid possibilities."

Classrooms are never neutral sites. They are contested spaces, where the imbrications of competing interests wrestle daily for ethical real estate. Just as they can harm, classrooms can heal. In this light, classrooms matter. Healing and humanizing classrooms matter most.



Interrupting inequitable practices, examining biases, and creating inclusive learning environments for all

## Race-Based Educational Inequality

School and ECE Factors Most Important to Student Achievement

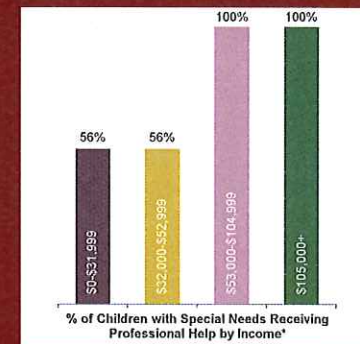
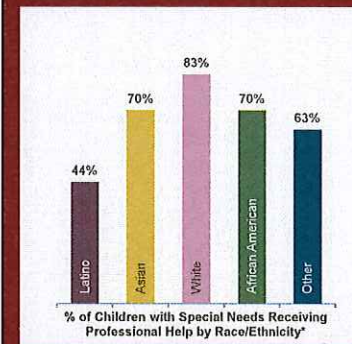
- **Racial composition** of schools & districts
- **Quality of teaching**
- **School-financing** & per-pupil spending
- **School discipline policies** for children of color

These elements are all related, and evidence suggests that one of the biggest reasons **racial composition** matters is that it drives teacher quality, school financing, and other school quality measures.

- **Racial segregation in PreK**
- **Quality of teaching**
- **Reimbursement Rates & No classroom or per pupil spending**
- **School discipline policies** for children of color/ Disproportionate Suspension and Expulsion

These elements are all related, and evidence suggests that one of the biggest reasons **racial composition** matters is that it drives teacher quality, early education financing, and other ECE quality measures.

## Special Needs



On A Parent Report, 40% of all children have developmental screening before entering Kindergarten.





Discovering and cultivating the unique gifts, talents and interests that every human possesses.



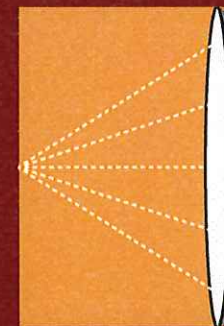
Pay attention to, recognize and address the inequities that also exist within our early care and education workforce.

## Using a SYSTEMS LENS

For Consortia and other assorted Stakeholders....

## Using an Equity Lens

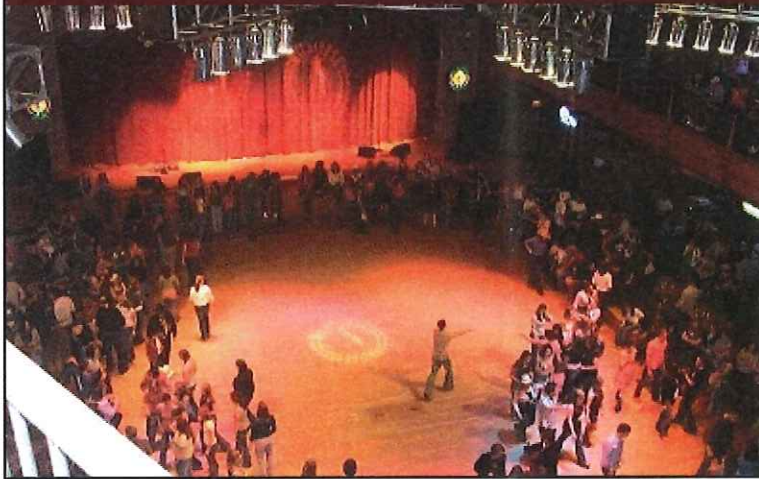
The metaphor of a *lens* allows us to see our contexts in new and revealing ways.



POLICIES  
OUTCOMES  
POWER  
RELATIONSHIPS  
SOLUTIONS



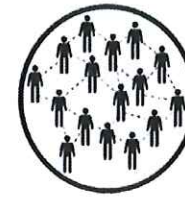
## A View from the Balcony



All levels of a system  
must be addressed.



INDIVIDUAL



INSTITUTIONAL



STRUCTURAL

What might we see if we intentionally looked at  
our work through an 'equity lens'?

What might we miss if we don't?



"The most basic and  
powerful way to connect  
to another person is to  
listen. Just listen. Perhaps  
the most important thing  
we ever give each other is  
our attention."

Rachel Naomi Remen

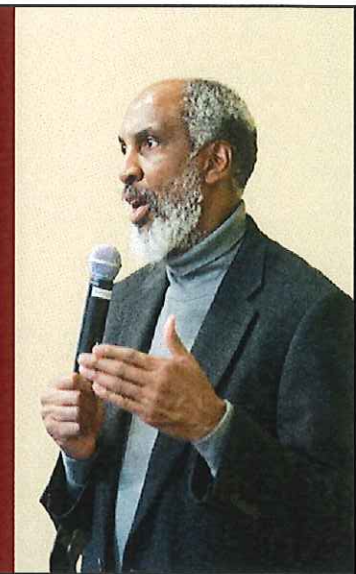







One does not understand structures or systems by looking at intent. Instead, we have to examine what they actually do—how they operate and what the outcomes are. Certainly a system or structure could be established for the purpose of excluding or discriminating.

However, most structures produce racialized outcomes without intent.


- John Powell

San Francisco Consortia  
Using an Equity Framework to  
Build a Better QRIS

Framework shared by the National Equity Project –  
nationalequityproject.org



6 Circle Model Exercise

- 1) Identify which components are ABOVE the Green Line and BELOW the green line.
- 2) Match the definitions with the component titles.
- 3) Match the examples with the component set.

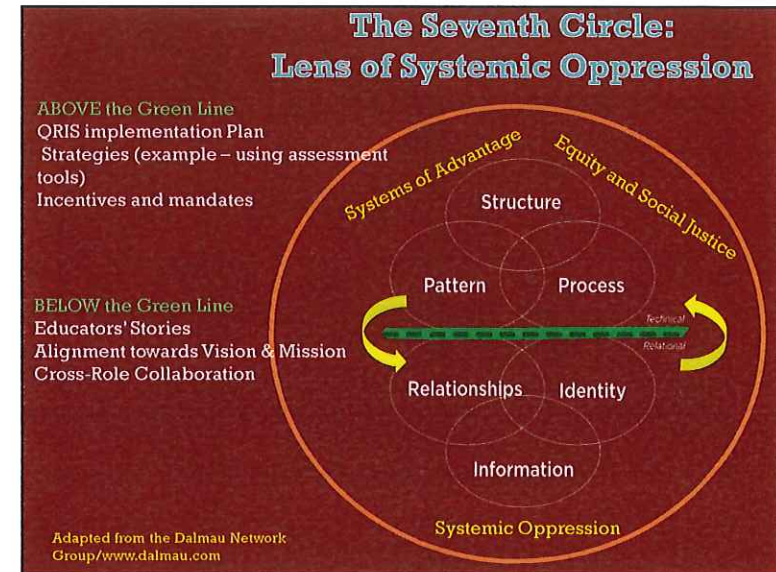
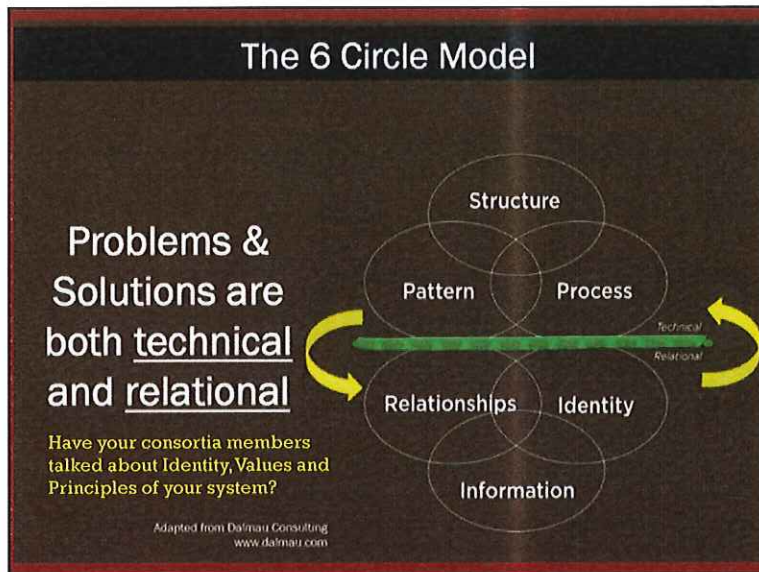
**Technical**

---

**Relational**

Notice the assumptions you are making.  
Notice what comes up in the conversation.





### Changing the Discourse

[http://www.schoolreforminitiative.org/download/Protocols/Emphasizing%20Equity%20and%20Excellence/discourse\\_chart.pdf](http://www.schoolreforminitiative.org/download/Protocols/Emphasizing%20Equity%20and%20Excellence/discourse_chart.pdf)

		Discourse I Attributes	Discourse II Attributes
Discourse 1	Discourse 2	Singular Truths	Multiple Stories
Dominant ways of seeing and engaging the work of education that <u>maintain</u> existing practices and serve to reproduce social inequality.	Ways of seeing and engaging the work of education that <u>challenge</u> the status quo by naming uncomfortable and unequal conditions and dynamics while pushing for deeper inquiry.	Answers and Technical Fixes	Inquiry and Adaptive Challenges
		Improving what exists	Addressing root causes
		Externalization/blame ("Look out the window")	Internal Reflection ("Look in the mirror")
		Limited Time and Ability	Getting started anyway

The contents of this chart are derived from:  
Eugene Eubanks, Ralph Parish and Dianne Smith. "Changing the Discourse in Schools." In Race, Ethnicity, and Multiculturalism: Policy and Practice, ed. Peter Hall. New York: Routledge, 1997.



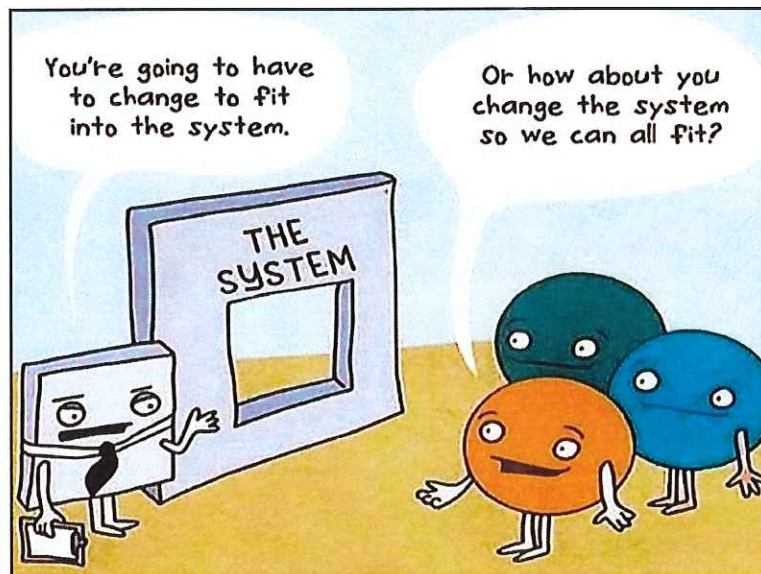
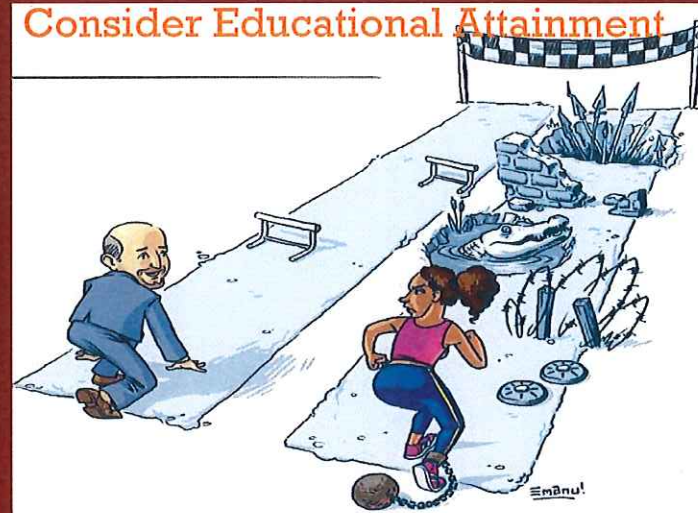
## Systems of Advantage



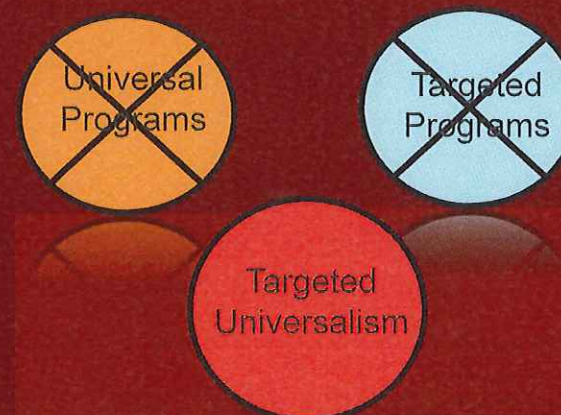
Some people  
*ride* the “Up”  
escalator to  
opportunity

Others have to  
*run* up the  
“Down” escalator  
to get there

## Consider Educational Attainment



## Towards Targeted Universalism





## Towards Targeted Universalism

The framework should:

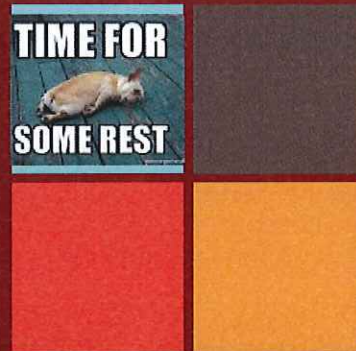
- support the identification of specific obstacles in particular geographies that limit certain populations from reaching those goals
- Identify specific supports or services for each population that addresses their respective situatedness

## Targeted Universalism

This approach supports the needs of the particular while reminding us that we are all part of the same social fabric

**universal**, yet captures how people are differently **situated**

**inclusive**, yet targets those who are most **marginalized**



BREAK until 3:30

## Using an Equity Lens in Developing an Assessment System





## Assessment systems are designed to measure what?

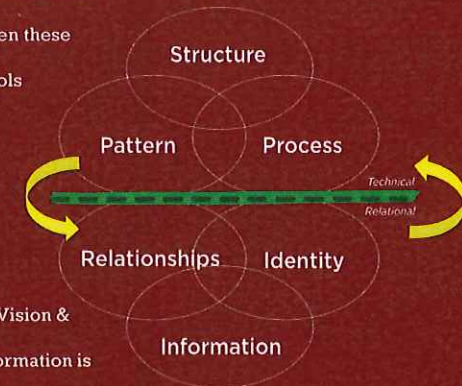


### ABOVE the Green Line

Structure: Assessment instruments that are used

Pattern: Periodicity (how often these assessments will happen)

Process: Assessment protocols

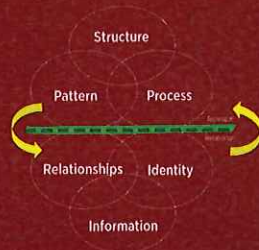


### BELOW the Green Line

Assessments align with our Vision & Mission

Process and assessment information is **accessible** to all  
Collaboration with people across the system to share information

Pay attention to what matters, not just to what is quantifiable



"If something is ugly, say so. If it is tacky, inappropriate, out of proportion, unsustainable, morally degrading, ecologically impoverishing, or humanly demeaning, don't let it pass. Don't be stopped by the "if you can't define it and measure it, I don't have to pay attention to it" ploy. No one can precisely define or measure justice, democracy, security, freedom, truth, or love. No one can precisely define or measure any value. But if no one speaks up for them, if systems aren't designed to produce them, if we don't speak about them and point toward their presence or absence, they will cease to exist."

- Donella Meadows

## Implicit bias plays a role in assessment

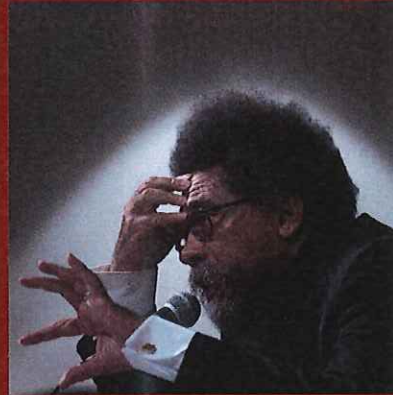
- Use of endearments (sweetie, honey, baby, mija, mi amor, papito, etc...)
- Teacher's accent when speaking English
- Secret lists of inappropriate books

Do we have the courage to unmask and disrupt patterns of accepted behavior?

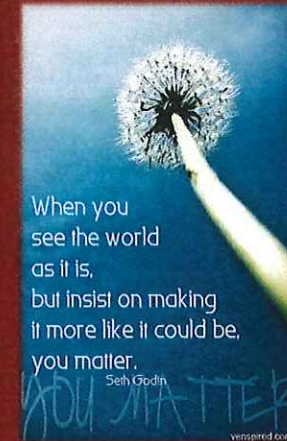


It takes courage to look in the mirror and see past your reflection to who you really are when you take off the mask, when you're not performing the same old routines and social roles. It takes courage to ask—How did I become so well-adjusted to injustice?"

- Cornel West



Going beyond the tools...  
Assessor  
observations and  
identity as helpers  
and equity leaders.



Courage to see

Courage to speak

Courage to act



Coaching

Training



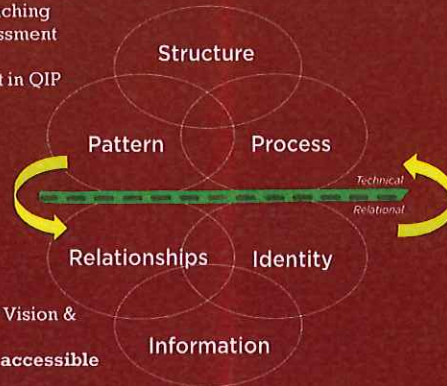
Technical Assistance

Continuous Improvement  
with an Equity Lens



**ABOVE the Green Line**

Structure: Coach /criteria, access and methodology \ Dosage of coaching  
 Pattern: QIP focused on assessment cycles, "Tell me what to do."  
 Process: Teacher Involvement in QIP development

**BELOW the Green Line**

Coaching that aligns with our Vision & Mission  
 CLASS / DRDP information is **accessible** to all  
 Collaboration with people across the system to share information/instructional leaders and coach partnerships

## The Problem we Exist to Solve...

## The Promise We Work to Fulfill

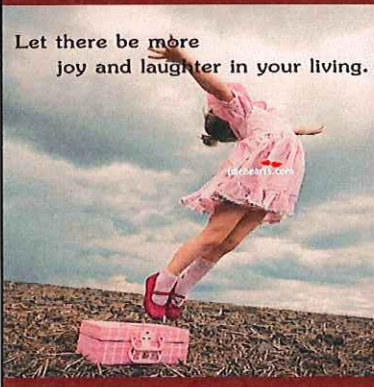
A fundamental goal of the San Francisco Coaching Collaborative is to improve the early educational experiences, outcomes and possibilities for children and families who have been historically underserved in our community. This commitment to an equitable community is at the heart of our work.

## Coaching for Equity

Coaching Attributes ...beyond the Qualifications

Operationalizing Values & Beliefs

Let there be more  
joy and laughter in your living.



### COACH WITH

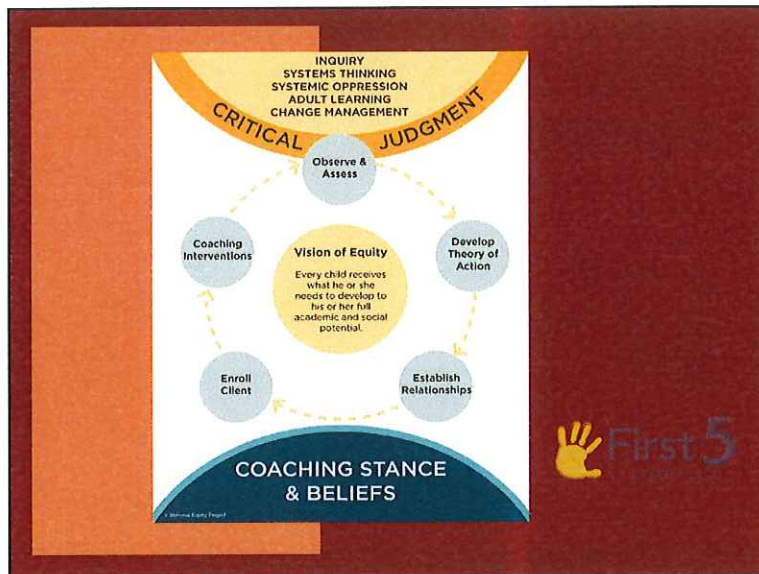
GRACE  
JOY  
DETERMINATION  
KINDNESS  
SKILL  
RESPECT

## Coaching Qualifications

### Pedagogical knowledge. Content expertise. Interpersonal capabilities.

- Understanding and use of the principles and practices of the ECE field, including reflective practice, dual language learning.
- Knowledge and respect for how adults learn and develop.
- Knowledge and experience of the following program quality assessment tools: Environmental Rating Scales(ERS) and CLASS. Coaches demonstrate knowledge of tools by completion of 2-day observer training for CLASS and in-depth training for ERS tools (ECERS, ITERS, or FCCERS). Preferred experience integrating the necessary tools and domains into their coaching practices.
- Required knowledge of the following Professional Development Pathways tools: Developmental Desired Results Profile (DRDP), California Preschool Learning Foundations and Frameworks (Pre-K or Infant/Toddler as appropriate), Ages and Stages Questionnaire, CSEFEL – CA Teaching Pyramid framework.
- Desired knowledge of the following Professional Development Pathways tools: Program Administrators Scale (PAS) and Business Administrators Scale (BAS), Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC).
- Applicable state laws, rule and regulations related to child care licensing.
- Familiarity with using databases to track progress.
- Knowledge and Experience in basic curriculum development, quality improvement planning and implementation.





## Implicit bias and Preferential Teacher Practice plays a role in instructional and coaching practice

- Preferential teacher practice
- Low expectations (for children and adults)
- Unconscious bias
- Cultural dissonance with dominant frameworks

How do we unmask and disrupt patterns of accepted behavior, low expectations, invisible children and families, cultural dissonance, linguistic contradictions in DLL practice?



Fulfilling  
the promise  
of every  
child.

I take it up.

## Coaching from the Inside Out

“All meaningful and  
lasting change begins  
on the inside.”





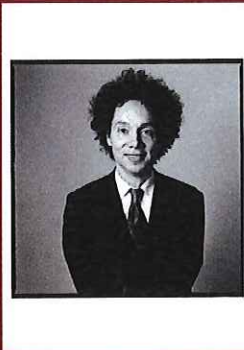
As a coach in your organization and community...



What new patterns do we want to create?

## SO WHAT?

What are YOU best positioned to do or influence from your organization?



"When outliers become outliers it is not just because of their own efforts. It's because of the contributions of lots of different people and lots of different circumstances— and that means that we, as a society, have more control about who succeeds—and how many of us succeed—than we think. That's an amazingly hopeful and uplifting idea."

Malcom Gladwell

## Moving it Forward



*"It is not up to you to finish the work, but neither are you free not to take it up."*

The Talmud